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LETTER

From a

GENTLEMAN

To the

Right Reverend Father in God,

HENRY,

Lord Bishop of *London, &c.*

L O N D O N:

Printed by *J. Mayes*, and are to be Sold by
J. Nutt near *Stationers-Hall*. 1701.

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Printed by J. Mayer, and are to be sold by
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To the Right Reverend
Father in God,
HENRY,

Lord Bishop of London, &c.

My Lord,

I Cannot think without Sorrow, that the Charities that have been Collected for the general Redemption of the Captives, who groan in the Empire of *Morocco*, do hitherto come short of what is Necessary; that thereby some of His Majesties Subjects are in no small danger to be kept in that Misery; and that several *French* Protestants, taken under *English* Colours, and that are under the Protection of his Majesty, part of whom have refused their deliverance offered them upon condition of turning to the Popish Religion, should have no share in this Pious Work, and loose an opportunity which perhaps shall never offer again.

I cannot think, I say, without the greatest concern, My Lord, of how much prejudice to the furtherance of a General Redemption, have been the false Reports, both without and within the Kingdom, which were made Pubblick several Months ago, that all the Captives, and at another time, that part of them were Redeemed, and Arrived at *London*: as if some, disgusted at so good a Work, had aimed at hindering the care that is taken, and the Charities that are to be Raised, to deliver them; and could not abide to see in his Majesties Service, that number of Men, who being the objects of his Royal Bounty, and of the universal Charity of the Kingdom, would Embrace all occasions to signalize their Faithfulness and Gratitude. I find that by the ill effect of such Reports, both in Town and Country, the People are under some prejudice, as if their former Charities, to this or the like ends, had not been rightly Applied.

Gods Providence made me many years a Witness, and sometime a partaker too, of their extream Sufferings. I am therefore highly sensible of the same, and bound in good Conscience to do what ever I think may be useful in order to their Relief; it is a promise I Ingaged my self in, while I was amongst them, and which I have discharged with the greatest pleasure upon all occasions.

The same Providence allotted me a share in promoting with success the Treaty concluded with the Emperor of *Morocco* for their Deliverance; in which Treaty I had the Honour to be appointed Secretary. So that, having a full view of every particular proceeding from first to last, I can hardly bear, that, for want of giving a right Information of what was Transacted, things should go wrong, and part of the aforesaid Captives should be in danger to remain in the power of Infidels. It would be an occasion among other Christian Princes to slight us, which God forbid.

It's

It's upon these considerations, My Lord, that I presume to make use of your Lordships Name, as of a great Benefactor to those poor Captives, to let every particular Person in *England* be acquainted with all the Transactions, in a case where every ones charity is desired. No body hath ground to think, My Lord, that I Disclose what should be kept Secret; since, to my knowledge, every thing spoke herein is known by all the Neighbouring Nations. Therefore I intend to lay open the beginning and progress of the whole Negotiation.

The Glory of *England* is Freedom, and as it hath been lately said, after a Learned *Grecian*, who thought no higher step could be made, it is the happiness of a Government when every one may think what he pleases, and say what he thinks: Only would to God that no ill use was ever made of that liberty.

While the great Wits of the Nation exercise their parts in the present Circumstances of affairs, about the ways of securing the Peace and Prosperity of the Universal Protestant Church and of these Kingdoms, and establishing the welfare and quietness of *Europe*, nay of the whole Universe; why may not a more contracted genius, within a lesser Sphere, give out his own Thoughts, concerning the interest of a very small part, but truly a very deserving part for their extream afflictions, of this powerful and happy Kingdom. I mean those Hundreds of good and serviceable *English* Seamen, that are Captives.

The greatness of actions is to be measured by the goodness of them, and it is the goodness of their ends that renders them such. After His Majesty had concluded the last Peace, nothing was more glorious than the charitable design, that none of his Subjects should be miserable, and should remain deprived of a share of happiness under his Reign.

If there be any Object in the whole World, My Lord, capable to move the highest degree of that Christian charity and tenderness, it is certainly the sore condition of such as Groan under the hardships of Captivity in the Empire of *Morocco*. Their sufferings are extream, and the circumstances thereof have something strange and extraordinary that is beyond expression, I may say unconceivable, but by any that hath been an eye witness. Truly none can be exposed to harder Tryals. Except the generous confessors of the Truth of Jesus Christ, that suffer so many Years since, for his Names sake, the cruelty of the *French Gallies*.

His Majesty whole Piety had effectually forwarded a general Redemption of the *Dutch* Captives, that the States of the United Provinces had obtained in 1698, was made sensible of their Case, and gave the Honourable Admiral *Aylmer* (who then commanded his Fleet in the *Straights*) his Royal Orders, to use all means possible to procure the deliverance of all his Subjects that had fallen in that Misery. The Admiral undertook that Charge with a Zeal answerable to so good a work, and laid the Project of their Redemption. While he was taking care about the main, his charity, and that of the whole Fleet under his command, appeared in the large Supplies that were Collected on board by his Order, for the present relief of those poor Men, amongst whom they were carefully distributed.

The success of the States of the United Provinces, who at that very time had Redeemed all their Subjects out of that Captivity was, My Lord, a great encouragement for the *English*. Tho' the *Dutch* had been almost Ten Years in the pursuit of that Work, under many disapointments, and therefore great expences, they did not desist till they accomplished it.

There

There was before this no precedent of a general Redemption, since the Reign of the present Emperour, who never yielded to any attempts of that kind, that had been made both by *England* and other Nations. Whatever good inclination he had shewed to encourage such proposals, the conclusion was always without effect. It would be too much to affirm that the fault did lye always in the Emperour himself. May be the wrong management of those who were imployed to Treat, which being utterly unacquainted with the right method of dealing at that Court, could never, tho' with the best intent and Principles, perform any thing effectually; may be the deceitfulness of some ill princip'd Ministers of that Country, to whom the Emperour had given the charge of those affairs, had the Principal share in it.

These difficulties, My Lord, made Admiral *Aylmer* very earnest in using all Necessary Precautions to prevent or conquer them. He thought fit to give his Instructions and a Commission to Captain *G. Delavall*, and to send me with him. He Judged me fit, being acquainted with the Customs and Language of that Court, to assist him to Treat with success with the Emperour or his Ministers, for the general Redemption of His Majesties Subjects that were in His Dominions.

A happy conclusion, through God's assistance, of the Treaty was the product of a whole Year. The Redemption of all was agreed with the Ministers of the Emperour, and confirmed by himself at his Court of *Miquenes*: and he gave his Declaration thereof under his Seal dated the 12 October 1699. As the same expresses the Conditions of the Agreement, I thought convenient to give a Translation of it from the *Arabian* Tongue in *English*, and to annex it here, that so every Person might know the contents, and what is necessary to raise for the number of Three Hundred Captives.

The Emperours Ministers made these the Conditions of the Treaty for the Redemption; that there should be a Peace between the two Crowns, concluded as soon as the Captives were delivered; that a Truce in the mean time should be observed; and that a Consul should be appointed on their Coast for a farther Token and Confirmation of a good Correspondance.

The Terms were 160 Peices of 8 for each Captive, which as your Lordship shall see in the Declaration, were to be employed in *England* in a Hundred Gun-locks and six Barils of Powder, a Moor Captive for every two Christians, and 10000 Peices of 8 under the name of a Present, to be employed likewise, by those the Emperour was to send to *England*, in what goods he pleased. The whole amounting to about 253 Peices of 8 for each Man, and of *English* Money about 60 Pound, *Sterling*.

It was thought necessary to give hopes of some Liberalities, if this Treaty did take Effect, to many of the chief Men and Favourites of the Emperour, to get their good will, and that none should be tempted to do an ill Office, which most have a natural bent to. This Particular was computed to about 1000 or 1200 Pound, joyned with the Principal, upon the account that was made of Three Hundred Captives at 60 Pound a Head, the whole comes to 19000 Pound.

The known difficultyes or rather Impossibilityes that have always been found, My Lord, to close with the Emperour of *Marocco* in such a Treaty for a Nation in general, make these Terms very advantagious and reasonable; especially if compared with those, the States general agreed to for their Subjects. Tho' the first agreement of the Redemption came not to above 85 pound *Ster.* a head, There was 75 pound more, in what they call Presents for the Emperour, so in the whole 160 *l.* for each, besides considerable Gifts to several persons at Court, whose
good

good or bad influence could either forward or hinder that design, and the vast expences of Ten Years pursuit to bring it to perfection. All was not thought too much, but very well employed, since so pious a Work procured at last the deliverance of those afflicted Captives, whose cries did continually reach to their Ears.

If so notable a Difference in this Agreement, My Lord, which comes but to 60 and odd pound for each *English* Captive, gave me a great satisfaction, I have now just cause of grief, to see the same in danger of being performed but in part, for want of the full Sum which is requisite. It is hard, that in fifteen months, and under the Eyes of the Emperour of *Morocco's* Ministers, who have all that while remained amongst us in *England*, His Majesty's Brief for a Collection through the whole Kingdom, had not the good effect to raise sufficiently to Redeem all the Captives.

It is material to observe, that in every Treaty that hath been carried on with the Emperour of *Morocco*, all the care taken to comply with the least Circumstance of the Articles agreed with him, could not secure on his part the performance of any. If that of the *Dutch* succeeded, it was but after a great deal of toil, and very tedious delays that would have discouraged any others,

Therefore now, My Lord, the not complying punctually on our part in the present Treaty, doth in effect expose *England*. The Emperour, who by a special mercy of God shewed himself so well inclined for it, will think us very poor or very uncharitable; whereas he hath the quite contrary opinion on both accounts. How far the honour of the Nation is concerned in the performance of this Treaty, I leave every body to Judge.

Considering how the Declaration here annexed is worded, it is likely he will stick to the conditions and method thereof, and accordingly, at the best, release but so many Captives, as

the Money raised by the Brief, hath enabled us to pay him for. I thought it there ore very reasonable, My Lord, nay very need-ful, for charity makes it so, now that your Lordship is about procuring a Second Brief from his Majesty to supply the want of the first, to stir also, with these few lines, the minds of the Pub-lick, to make up without any delay what is wanting of the whole Sum, That all the poor Captives may be delivered at once. Both in conscience and in honour, we are under the stric-test ingagement to use all endeavours to that end.

For if the Emperour stands to the Terms of his Agreement, as there is reason enough to believe he will, he shall keep as many as the want of the Money comes to, and certainly, My Lord, that shall be the lot of those that are Young, Strong, and supposed to have the most interest and Fortune in *England*: as to the latter, considering the craftiness and care of the *Moors* whose business it is to have a Continual Eye upon them, that is no hard thing to be guessed at. They have one way or other informations of the circumstances of every one; and perhaps the Emperour would afterwards require for those remaining a much greater Sum than for the others, upon the supposition of being worth more.

By these means, if the Treaty is in some measure made void, and performed but in part, who then doth not see the ill consequence of such an event? what Sorrow and Temptations for the unfortunate ones, that shall see before their Eyes the deliverance of their fellow Sufferers, and themselves rejected? which might put some upon despair, and occasion the losing themselves eternally in turning *Mahometans*. Truly it concerns all true *English*, to help according to every ones ability, to prevent so high a Guilt. To what bitter complaints, and perhaps murmur-ings shall not the remaining Captives's Friends and Relations in *England* be exposed to? and what grief shall not have all the

the good People, who have already helped to their power that good work of the Redemption, to see more tears than ever shed before them through this partial success.

Whither or no upon any other account, besides the deliverance of His Majesties Subjects, the Alliance and Friendship which the Emperour of *Morocco* desires with His Majesty, might be so managed, as to be made of any good use and advantage to *England*; whither in this Juncture of time, the priviledge of some Magazenes, and of watering His Majesties Ships on that part of *Africa*, when that is likely to be prohibited any where else about those Seas, might not be favourable; I leave it to your Lordships consideration, and of those whose High Character makes them the best Judges of that.

I presume, My Lord, to offer this to your Lordship, as a Token of the sincere desire I have, to be of some use, as far as in me lay, to the oppressed; to approve my self Truly Zealous for the honour of His Majesty and his Kingdoms; and in particular grateful to your Lordship for your special favours bestowed upon me. I Pray God Almighty to grant your Lordship his Continual Blessings, with the satisfaction to see at last the full Deliverance of those poor Captives, whom your Lordships Charity hath so often relieved. I am with the greatest Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships

London, Octob. 17th. 1701

Most Humble and most
Obedient Servant,

B. M.

A Translation out of the Arabick of the Emperour of Morocco's Declaration, concerning the Redemption of the Captives, by which he Ratifies the agreement made with his Ministers by Capt. G. Delavall.

THANKS be to God alone, and Worship to Mahomet the Prophet, than which there is no other, and there is no Strength nor Power but from God High and Mighty, from whom is our help.

The Servant of God whose stay is upon God, and Governs the believers, The Warriour in the Service of God, Ismael ben Sheriff el Hassany.

God preserve him and his Reign, Amen.

THE Bearer of this is the *English* Commander, who spoke here with us about the Captives of his Nation that are in our power, we complied with him, and granted him his desire in every particular concerning them.

We heard from himself what he promised for their Redemption, which was concluded for a hundred Gun-locks, good and chosen, and Six Barils of Powder for every one, and a More for every two Captives, and Ten Thousand Dollors more that

that shall be Employed in *England* to our Will and Pleasure, in such things as we know to be there.

For the present we cannot let the *English* Captives go out of our Hand, till all that we heard from him for the Redemption be ready in *Cadiz*, and that nothing of it be wanting; and when that is effected as we have agreed, and arrived at *Cadiz*, let him give us notice of it, and we shall send all the *English* Captives to *Tangier*, and thence dispatch them, and convey them out to him with all speed. They shall be delivered in his hands, and what he shall bring shall be received, by parcels, according as it shall be aproved of on our part and his.

That the Captives cannot be delivered now to remain in Tetuan Eight or Ten Months, till their Redemption arrives, and leave their Works at a stand, is, because they are imployed continually in our Buildings, some cutting Marble, some setting up the Pillars of the same, which none but them understand, and they serve in all the great works we have. Notwithstanding, we have granted him this, and when he returns here, according as we have agreed with him, he shall find us ready to comply to his desire, by the Grace of God. Whosoever shall see this shall act according to it without failing. Given at *Miquenes* the 28 of *Rabeh-teni*, in the Year, 1111. Which was the 12 of *October* 1699.

MUSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM